**(WASHINGTON, D.C)** - Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO) today released the following statement in response to Bureau of Labor Statistics report that the national unemployment rate reached 10.2 percent in October, the highest rate of unemployment since April of 1983. More than 190,000 Americans lost their jobs in October alone:

"There is no clearer signal that the Democrats' job-killing, tax laden takeover of our health care system is the wrong policy at the wrong time. Today's unemployment announcement is the latest stark reminder that Speaker Pelosi, President Obama and the Democrat leadership would rather advance their more-big-government agenda, than put Americans back to work."

"We now have a government run auto industry, a government run banking industry, and soon will have a government run health care industry, but unemployment continues to rise and Americans continue to suffer. Democrats' economic recovery message is disingenuous at best, but more likely is malfeasance. Time and time again, Democrats' rhetoric fails to meet reality. Almost three million jobs have been lost since the so-called stimulus was enacted. When will the Democrats get the message, taxing and spending our nation in to insurmountable debt is not a viable solution to our economic troubles?"

"The unemployment rate has surpassed 10 percent for the first time since 1983. Counting those who have been forced to take part-time jobs or have given up looking, the real unemployment rate is closer to 17.5 percent. Our economy and the American people are on the ropes. Speaker Pelosi's trillion dollar government takeover of health care paid for by hundreds of billions of dollars in new taxes on small businesses and working Americans will be the knockout blow."

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